

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A keyboard comprising:

a plurality of keys associated with alphanumeric characters including the letters A-Z and at least the numbers 1-9, said keys being split into a left side section and a right side section, with the left side section being grouped as a contiguous block of keys having a top row and a bottom row, and the right side section being grouped as a contiguous block of keys having a top row and a bottom row,

the left side section is oriented at least partially above the right side section to define an upper section corresponding to the left side section and a lower section corresponding to the right side section, with the left side section being positioned above the right side section such that at least part of the bottom row of the left side section is positioned above at least part of the top row of the right side section,

or the right side section is oriented at least partially above the left side section to define an upper section corresponding to the right side section and a lower section corresponding to the left side section, with the right side section being positioned above the left side section such that at least part of the bottom row of the right side section is positioned above at least part of the top row of the left side section,

wherein the alphanumeric characters represent a QWERTY-style key arrangement, and when the left side section is oriented at least partially above the right side section, the upper section includes said keys associated with the alphabetic characters "QWERTASDFGZXC", and the lower section includes said keys associated with the alphabetic characters "YUIOPHJKLBNM",

or when the right side section is oriented at least partially above the left side section, the upper section includes said keys associated with the alphabetic characters "YUIOPHJKLBNM", and the lower section includes said keys associated with the alphabetic characters "QWERTASDFGZXC".

2. (Original) The keyboard of claim 1, wherein all of the keys of the upper section are positioned above all of the keys of the lower section.

3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The keyboard of claim 1, wherein part of the upper section transversely overlaps part of the lower section.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the upper section comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys, and the lower section comprises at least three rows and five columns of keys.
7. (Original) The keyboard of claim 6, wherein the five columns of the upper section align longitudinally with the five columns of the lower section.
8. (Original) The keyboard of claim 6, wherein the five columns of the upper section are offset longitudinally from the five columns of the lower section
9. (Original) The keyboard of claim 6, wherein the left side section of keys comprises a first row associated with characters "Q", "W", "E", "R", and "T", a second row associated with characters "A", "S", "D", "F", and "G", and a third row associated with characters "Z", "X", "C", and "V"; and
the right side section comprises a first row associated with characters "Y", "U", "I", "O", and "P", a second row associated with characters "H", "J", "K", and "L", and a third row associated with characters "B", "N", and "M".
10. (Original) The keyboard of claim 9, wherein the left side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row.

11. (Original) The keyboard of claim 10, further comprising a key associated with the space function and a key associated with the number "0".

12. (Original) The keyboard of claim 11, wherein the space function and the number "0" are associated with the same key.

13. (Original) The keyboard of claim 9, wherein the right side section of keys is associated with numbers 1-9, with the "1", "2", and "3" being associated with the first row, the "4", "5", and "6" being associated with the second row, and the "7", "8", and "9" being associated with the third row.

14. (Original) The keyboard of claim 13, further comprising a key associated with the space function and a key associated with the number "0".

15. (Original) The keyboard of claim 9, wherein the number "0" is associated with a key in one of the left side section or the right side section.

16. (Original) The keyboard of claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of keys are further associated with at least one of symbols or functions.

17. (Original) The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a thumb wheel coupled to the keyboard.

18. (Original) The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a key associated with a "send" function, a key associated with an "end" function, and at least one key associated with a "shift" function.

19. (Original) The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising at least one key associated with the caps function.

20. (Original) The keyboard of claim 19, wherein the at least one key associated with the caps function comprises a first caps key and a second caps key, with the first caps key being associated with the upper section and the second caps key being associated with the lower section.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) A mobile communication device comprising:
a housing having a face; and
the keyboard of claim 1 associated with the face of the housing.

23. (Original) A mobile communication device comprising:
a housing having a face; and
the keyboard of claim 9 associated with the face of the housing.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)